

### **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A dental appliance having increased or decreased  
thickness between an upper shell and a lower shell in  
combination with a hinging mechanism and a system and a  
method for treating malocclusions are provided. The dental  
appliance may have an upper shell and a lower shell which  
receive upper teeth and lower teeth, respectively, of a  
user. The upper shell and the lower shell may be attached  
at a hinge. The dental appliance may have an increased  
10 thickness between the upper shell and the lower shell as  
well as an increased thickness of the hinge. In an  
embodiment, the dental appliance may have a decreased  
vertical thickness and an insertable hinging mechanism.  
The dental appliance may then extend treatment of  
15 malocclusions to the rear teeth of the user and may correct  
a dental condition, such as, for example, overbite,  
overjet, open bite, crowding, rotations, spacing, cross-  
bites, gummy smiles and temporomandibular joint problems.